

William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

9160 '99 JUL 13 AM 12

RE: Docket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

July 9, 1999

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, *or* foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled on the principal display panel of the product. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity of the product name. In addition, this statement should be accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, information indicating treatment by irradiation should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is a completely different process of rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with irradiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol is not adequate without further written information.

Consumers have every right to know how their food has been processed. Please insure that labeling requirements are strengthened and not weakened.

Sincerely,

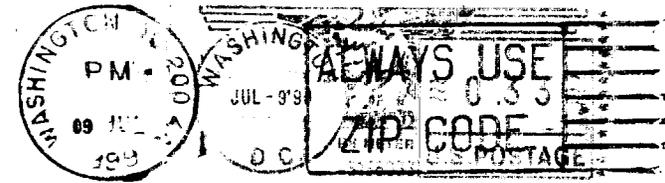


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